

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 244558

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT CANBERRA 7246 SENT SECSTATE DATED NOV 4

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AS

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 233134

1. REF (A) REQUESTED A REPORT BY THE AMBASSADOR ON THE ACTIVITIES OF HIS MISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE DRUG PROGRAM.

2. REFTTEL POINTS OUT THAT THE KEY ROLE PLAYED BY AMBASSADORS IS IN CONVINCING HIGH LEVELS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS THAT IT IS IN THEIR NATION'S INTEREST TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO NARCOTICS CONTROL. THIS INVOLVES CONVINCING THEM THAT DRUG ABUSE IS NOT PRIMARILY AN AMERICAN PROBLEM BUT IS PRESENTLY OR POTENTIALLY A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR EVERY NATION. THE PROGRESSIVE GROWTH OF BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN AMERICAN ENFORCEMENT SERVICES AND THOSE OF OTHER NATIONS AND THE MORE AND MORE EFFECTIVE BATTLE AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG SMUGGLERS HAS BEEN BASED UPON THE GROWING RECOGNITION

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PAGE 02 STATE 244558

OF THIS FACT BY OTHER NATIONS.

3. IN AUSTRALIA WE ARE IN A FORTUNATE SITUATION IN THIS RESPECT. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE THREAT POSED TO ITS OWN NATION BY ILLICIT DRUG SMUGGLERS AND THE GROWTH OF DRUG ABUSE AND ATTACHES A VERY HIGH PRIORITY TO AN EFFECTIVE AUSTRALIAN PROGRAM OF NARCOTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIVE TREATMENT FOR DRUG VICTIMS.

4. THE GOA ALSO RECOGNIZES THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION, BOTH ON A BILATERAL BASIS AND THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. ON BOTH COUNTS WE ENJOY VERY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES. DAY TO DAY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AUSTRALIAN NARCOTICS BUREAU AND THE USDEA AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS, IN ITS REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA AND WITH DEA OFFICES IN OTHER CAPITALS IS CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS AND THE VOLUME OF OPERATIONAL TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE AGENCIES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IS MOUNTING STEADILY. IN A BROADER SENSE THE U.S. OBJECTIVE IS TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT AUSTRALIA IN ASSUMING A ROLE OF REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE PACIFIC REGION. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RESPONDED WELL TO THIS ENCOURAGEMENT. IT HAS IN THE PAST SPONSORED AND ACTED AS HOST TO A REGIONAL NARCOTICS SESSION, AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED NATIONS TOOK THE LEAD IN THE PROGRAM OF THE UN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ILLICIT DRUG ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO EXPECT THAT AUSTRALIA WILL CONTINUE IN THIS POSITION OF REGIONAL LEADERSHIP, WHILE CONTINUING TO GIVE STRONG SUPPORT IN GENEVA TO THE GLOBAL PROGRAMS OF THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS.

5. TO THIS END THE SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE MISSION MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS WITH THE SENIOR NARCOTICS OFFICIALS OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS WITH THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE DEA BASED IN MANILA. WE BELIEVE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE AND FORWARD-LOOKING PROGRAM IN THIS AREA AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUATION OF THE EMBASSY'S CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE GOA AND THE DEA IN THIS PROGRAM. GREEN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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